PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact Person

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, today announced that Paul A. Horvatich, DOB: 6/3/1973, of Superior, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 25 years in prison to be followed by a five-year term of supervised release for conspiracy to possess methamphetamine with intent to distribute between 2002 and 2005.

Judge Crabb determined at sentencing that Horvatich was responsible for distributing at least 15 kilograms of methamphetamine during the course of conspiracy. She also stated that Horvatich possessed at least one firearm in connection with the conspiracy and played a leadership role by directing multiple couriers to transport methamphetamine from St. Paul to Superior, Wisconsin and Duluth, Minnesota.

United State Attorney Sinnott praised the coordinated efforts of law enforcement to break up this conspiracy.

"Lengthy sentences like the one handed down today should put all drug dealers on notice that the possession and distribution of methamphetamine in this district will result in very serious consequences," Sinnott said.

Horvatich's co-defendant, Paul Letsos, was sentenced on May 18, 2006, to 46 months in prison for his role in distributing methamphetamine. The remaining co-defendants, Isreal Flores and Jesse Mateo Rodrigues, members of the Latin King Almighty Nation street gang, are scheduled to be sentenced and to plead guilty, respectively, on June 6, 2006.

The charges against Horvatich were the result of an investigation conducted by the Douglas County Sheriff's Department and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations - Narcotics Bureau. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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